

Having described the invention, the following is claimed:

1. An information management system for tracking instruments, comprising:
at least one instrument tracking client, each instrument tracking client installed on a respective general purpose computer;
at least one antimicrobial treatment device; and
a communication server interface in communication with the at least one instrument tracking client and the at least one antimicrobial treatment device, said communication server interface programmed to:
request data from the at least one antimicrobial treatment device,
transmit requests from the at least one instrument tracking client,
receive data from the at least one antimicrobial treatment device,
receive requests from the at least one instrument tracking client, and
transmit data to the at least one instrument tracking client.
2. An information management system according to claim 1, wherein said communication server interface includes a communication server installed on a general purpose computer system.
3. An information management system according to claim 2, wherein said communication server is implemented as at least one of a Component Object Model (COM), a COM+, and a Distributed Component Object Model (DCOM).
4. An information management system according to claim 1, wherein said system further comprises a computer network for connecting said respective general purpose computer system with said communication server interface.
5. An information management system according to claim 1, wherein said antimicrobial treatment device is selected from the group consisting of: a sterilizer and a washer.

6. A communication server interface in communication with at least one instrument tracking client and at least one antimicrobial treatment device, said communication server comprising:

means for requesting data from the at least one antimicrobial treatment device,

means for transmitting requests from the at least one instrument tracking client,

means for receiving data from the at least one antimicrobial treatment device,

means for receiving requests from at least one instrument tracking client, and

means for transmitting data to the at least one instrument tracking client.

7. A communication server interface according to claim 6, wherein said communication server is installed on a general purpose computer system.

8. A communication server interface according to claim 6, wherein said communication server interface is connected with said at least one instrument tracking client and said at least one antimicrobial treatment device via a computer network.

9. A communication server interface according to claim 6, wherein said antimicrobial treatment device is selected from the group consisting of: a sterilizer and a washer.